

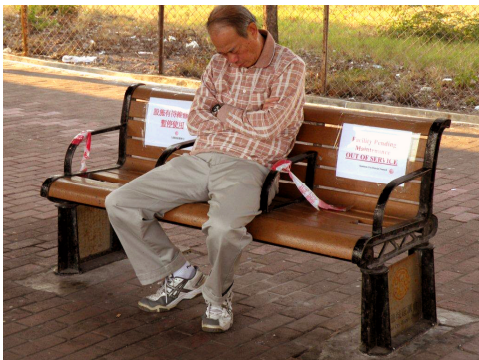
RUBBISH DUMP



This picture depicts accurately the current state of the 'Gypsy Site' in Naas Lane Brookthorpe. Remember what we were promised having had this site foisted on us in the first place? We have been lobbying the District Council for years to get something done about this sad state of affairs, with no visible progress to date. It was recently the subject of a

suspected arson attack and has now been blocked off by so-called travellers with an alleged vested interest in the site. At the last Parish Council Meeting, we asked both our County and District Councillors to bring some pressure to bear in achieving an acceptable resolution to this on-going blot on the landscape. If you have any views, then visit the our Website and comment on this article. **Eric Hibbert**

JUST RESTING !



Apparently having broken the sealing tape across the park bench, which had a notice clearly stating that it was 'OUT OF SERVICE', a local resident takes a nap. Photo taken in Hong Kong by **Philip Gibson**.



An orchard scene in Brookthorpe, reminding us of our snowy winter.

Photo by **Adrian Bennett**.

BROOKTHORPE-WITH-WHADDON



NEWSLETTER

March 2011



WHADDON GARAGE HANDOVER

**Richard Bevan (no relation) John Bevan,
Garry Summers and Jamie Mace
(see page 5)**

**Linking Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon and the surrounding areas
Published in colour on Website at www.brookthorpe-with-whaddon.co.uk**

PARISH COUNCIL

If you are interested in serving and shaping the future of your community and have a few hours to spare each month then please find out more by getting in contact either with one of the Councillors or myself. All details are on page 11 of this Newsletter.

Anne Rigelsford
Clerk to the Parish Council

VILLAGE HALL

CHRISTMAS DRAW

A belated thank-you to everyone who contributed to the Draw, either by buying tickets, giving a donation or providing prizes. This is really appreciated. We raised the sum of £794.00 altogether which was a good result. Changing the time of the event to an evening too seemed to be quite successful with a good crowd coming along.

The Draw is the major fundraising effort of the year by the Committee, so the continued support of everyone is very important to us.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Village Hall will take place on
Tuesday 19th. April 2011 commencing 7.30pm

Nigel Bone

NEWSLETTER 2011

Sadly March 31st is the last time that the Mobile Library will be coming to Brookthorpe for some time. See page 9 for full details. Perhaps this is something that volunteers from the villages can do something? See next page article on the 'Big Society'.

Thanks for two photos sent in this month, which appear on the back colour page. Keep them coming in, especially those with particular reference to village activities and if they can be accompanied by a short article, so much the better.

C.B-S

INFORMATION PINBOARD

Produced for the Parish Council

Mr. Eric Hibbert (<i>Chairman</i>)	302656
Mr. Bruce Wiggall (<i>Vice Chairman</i>)	812195
Mrs. Elizabeth Brent-Smith	812258
Mr. Paul Gaze	812948
Mr. Duncan MacKellar	07960016304

Clerk to the Council :

Mrs Anne Rigelsford 01452-536940

DIARY

Mar 1st Parish Council BVH 8 pm

Mar 8th CAMEO Meeting BVH 7.30 pm
see page 4

Mar 14th Trooper Choir at Holy Trinity
Church, Stroud. See page 7.

Mar 29th Stroke Club at Richmond Painswick
See page 6

Mar 31st Last Mobile Library see page 9

Mobile Library Thursdays

March 3rd, 17th & 31st

Brookthorpe 11.10 - 11.20
(at the Four Mile)

Edge 10.40 - 11.00
(Bus Shelter Whiteshill Road)

Haresfield 11.30 - 12.00
(School)

NB. See note on page 9 - Last visit

Green Boxes Tuesday

March 1st, 15th & 29th

Mobile Police Station

March 8th 10.20 - 10.35

March 21st 14.50 - 15.05

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

for Village Hall Bookings, contact
NIGEL BONE
Tel: 01452-812628
Email : nigel.bone@btinternet.com

**COPY DEADLINE FOR
March 2011
NEWSLETTER**

FRIDAY MARCH 25th

Tel: 812258
E-Mail : chrisbs@care4free.net

CHURCH SERVICES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EDGE</u>	<u>HARESCOMBE</u>	<u>PITCHCOMBE</u>
06/03	-----	11.00 am Family Communion	10.00 am Family Service
13/03	9.30 am Holy Communion	9.30 am Holy Communion	11.00 am Holy Communion
20/03	10.00 am Family Service	11.00 am Morning Prayer	9.30 am Holy Communion BCP
27/03		10.00 am Three Parish Communion at Harescombe	

Other Services

First Wednesday in month	:	9.00 am Pitchcombe Holy Communion - 1662
Third Wednesday in month	:	9.00 am Edge Holy Communion - 1662
Second Monday in month	:	11.30 am Holy Communion at Resthaven Nursing Home Chapel
Third Tuesday in month	:	11.00 am Brookthorpe Nursing Home

For further information or requests for Home Communion and occasional services, please contact **Reverend Elizabeth Ward** on 01452-812188

St. MARGARET'S

MARCH

6th	4.00 pm	Evensong
9th	10.30 am	Ash Wednesday Eucharist
13th	9.00 am	Sung Eucharist
20th	4.00 pm	Evensong
27th	9.00 am	Sung Eucharist
Thursdays 10.30 am - Said Eucharist March 3rd, 17th, 24th & 31st.		

NB. Because of the Ash Wednesday service on the 9th, there will not be a service on Thursday the 10th.

St. Margaret's is part of the Benefice of Gloucester St. George, with Whaddon. To speak to the Benefice clergy, please contact: Priest-in-charge Rev David Smith, The Vicarage, Tuffley. Tel: (01452) 520851.

St. Margaret's Church now has two Websites. The first has been running for eighteen months, and in the past twelve months there have been 660 visitors to the site. www.achurchnearyou.com
More recently, St. Margaret's is now featured on the benefice Website: www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk

THE BIG SOCIETY

In commenting on this issue on a topical news program I listened to the words of a well known pundit who stated "in my experience volunteering in the community tends to mean that the same old volunteers are expected to pick up the gauntlet and do something with it, whilst the same apathetic majority sit on their backsides and let them do it, only rearing their heads and expressing their views if they dislike what is being done or said in their collective name". How true that is in my view and experience having lived in this community now for coming up to 27 years.

Whatever happened to that community spirit that, post the second world war, many of us grew up with? You had to pull together to survive and make things happen, whether work, rest or play. Today things are tough and will undoubtedly get tougher; it's no good waiting for the Government to throw money at everything - that's just not possible. We have exceeded our credit limit as a country and it's pay-back time.

Fortunately we have a small nucleus of individuals who keep this community going whether it's the Parish Council, the Village Hall Committee or the handful of individuals who attend meetings and give their time in other ways. All too often when I approach people I hear the cry "I don't have the time", well actually none of us do really, but you have to find just a little bit from somewhere and help make a difference if you care!

I think initially David Cameron and his team will have a very tough time with this but perhaps when needs must eventually people will wake up to the real world!

Eric Hibbert

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Police have said there have been a number of thefts around Stroud and district where small quantities of lead have been stolen from houses and properties, sometimes between porches or garages and the house. Keep aware for any unusual activity.

There is also a scam going on via the internet where you are asked for your driving licence details. This is nothing to do with the DVLA, so just delete and do not pass on any personal details.

Bruce Wiggall

BROOKTHORPE CAMEO GROUP

Unfortunately our scheduled Speaker let us down, so Peter Berry stepped in at the last minute to tell us about his visit to Zimbabwe in 1994.

He has three loves in his life - steam trains, photography and his wife ! He travels all over the world to search out steam trains while they still exist and takes photographs of them.

He and his wife flew to Harare, and then went by bus to Bulawayo where they hired a steam train complete with twelve coaches for two weeks. There were 80 passengers from all over the world and 38 train crew.

They crossed the country, stopping at villages in the Bush. He had photos of the native people, their homes and of the wildlife - termite mounds, elephant droppings and lizards. They spent one day at a coal mine, riding the trains. They spent two nights at a hotel at Victoria Falls. An engine from Zambia collected their coaches. They did a 'booze cruise' on the Zambeze River and saw hippos, crocodiles and three elephants crossing the river. He has lots of photos of the spectacular Falls, some of them taken from a flight over the Falls. They went on an early game drive in Hwange National Park and saw lions with a buffalo kill, lots of baboons, wildebeeste, giraffe, zebras, hyenas and vultures. The women in the group went on an evening Landrover drive and saw a herd of 120 elephants.

They hire a stretch of railway line for a day, then set up their cameras to take photographs, sometimes 25 times a day.

They travelled back to Bulawayo and then by bus to Harare. Unfortunately it isn't possible to visit Zimbabwe any more because of the present regime.

Next month's meeting is on Tuesday 8th March at 7.30 pm when the Speaker will be Chris Evans from Dundry Nursery. Visitors always welcome - £1.50.

Chris New.

MOBILE LIBRARY

Due to the Budget Cuts by Gloucestershire County Council, there are now only 3 visits left by the Mobile Library, the last one being **31st March 2011**. This has been a wonderful service and it is sad to see it go.

It looks as if the nearest library now is the main library in Brunswick Road which means a trip to Gloucester or possibly the one at Quedgeley which may only be open on certain days.

This is only one of the services that will be reduced or cut over the next few years.
Bruce Wiggall

DAFFODILS

Please be aware that daffodils are planted in the verges in Brookthorpe near the bus stop towards Gloucester, in the Post Box area, by the Four Mile House, Andrews Green and both sides of the Stroud Road from Gardener's Cottage towards the Upton Lane mini roundabout. Last Spring, a hedge cutter mowed them down and again this year we just managed to stop the other side being mowed down by a hedge cutter. The gentleman was very respectful when it was pointed out to him and worked on without further damage to the bulbs.

If we want the Village to look cared for we must show respect for it. The bulbs were paid for by the Parish Council and planted by volunteers.

Volunteer Bulb Planters

CONCESSIONARY FARES

From next April, Gloucestershire County Council will be responsible for the concessionary bus pass scheme for the who of the county. Due to their budget cuts the scheme will now operate from 9.30am until 11pm weekdays and at weekends and bank holidays . This means that the passes will not be able to be used at the earlier times we have been used to.

The passes issued by Stroud District Council will still be valid until their expiry date when they can be renewed at the main library or any express library.

Bruce Wiggall

WEBSITE UPDATE

WWW.BROOKTHORPE-WITH-WHADDON.CO.UK

As many of you will be aware we have had a Parish Website for some years now, it compliments our Parish Newsletter and provides information about the Parish as well as other information. Every couple of years it needs freshening up in order to keep up with the times. We are hoping this year to complete the Parish Plan and therefore pre-empting its conclusion I have decided to add some new features to the site in the hope that more people will use it and contribute to its content. So what does it do for us?

- It provides information about the Parish Council and its activities/meetings, agendas and minutes.
- It posts for your viewing the Parish Newsletter in advance of the printed version in **full colour**, which you can now view page by page as well as print current and archived issues from 2011.
- It provides contact details of numerous organisations and individuals with telephone numbers and even website links for you to follow including a contact form for Village Hall issues.
- A new feature will be images around the Parish, which may have News worthiness, connected to an article or just a topical picture depending on the season or some aspect of Parish life.
- Another new feature is 'News and Views' where issues can be debated and commented on for all to see. I have added two issues, both current, on which you may wish to comment. These can be added to, so if you have a particular issue or something you wish to say or ask for comment on then just send me some copy and I will post up the article - remember people will be able to comment, good, bad or indifferently.
- There is also a Diary looking as far ahead as the information supplied to me permits. So if you want something put in the Diary - again just contact me.
- I intend adding a Gallery of images of the Parish along with a history of the Parish in the near future. The site will be continuously updated/added to so just watch the site and contribute where you can.

Eric Hibbert - comment@brookthorpe-with-whaddon.co.uk

WHADDON GARAGE



John Bevan and Garry Summers

John will be required on certain days, especially holidays, to do invoicing etc. so will be able to keep in touch with longstanding customers.

The previous owner was Percy Day, and many years ago it was the Village Smithy, hence the name of 'Forge Green'.

PARISH COUNCIL

Preliminary matters for discussion at the Parish Council Meeting
on Tuesday 1st March at Brookthorpe Village Hall at 8 pm.
Press and Public most welcome.

1. Planning Applications

S10/2541/FUL	Field at Naas Lane Brookthorpe	Retention of caravan for 3 years, associated access and car parking
S11/0080/FUL	Golf Range Stroud Road Whaddon	Alterations to driving range and construction of an additional driving range building.
2. District Councillors Report
3. County Councillors Report
4. Financial Matters

Anne Rigelsford
Clerk to the Parish Council

VILLAGE AGENT

Lots to tell you this month ("oh no", groan our editors!). There is a newly set up Stroke Club which will be held monthly at Richmond, Painswick on the last Tuesday of the month, so that will be March 29th for this month. If you would like to volunteer or to attend this club, the contact details will be at the end of this article. I am happy to help with transport and to accompany you if you'd like to try it out.

Some of you living in Painswick may have noticed that the ladies who volunteer to organise the Wednesday Day centre held at Ashwell, have been putting out fliers and posters to remind you of this great service. It's an opportunity to meet other people in a very relaxed and friendly environment all for the princely sum of £6. That will give you coffee, an aperitif, lunch and tea. If a whole day seems a bit daunting, then what about going just for lunch on a Tuesday or Thursday. The meals all come from the WRVS and are very good value for money.

Your 2011 Census questionnaire will arrive in March. It's vital that you complete your confidential Census questionnaire as the statistics are used to make decisions about our community. Our area receives funding from Government, based on the number of people living here, funding that can be used for schools, hospitals, transport and refuse collection. Everyday facilities like play parks, water pipes and even where your local supermarket branch is located are based on Census statistics. It's all confidential, so no one will see your personal information. If you need help or know someone who will need a hand filling this out, please call me.

Stroud Library is desperately looking for volunteers to help with their "Homebound Service" for outlying villages around Stroud. You'll need to be reasonably fit to be able to carry the books and be available every 3 to 4 weeks for your customer. I needed to use this service recently for a lady who could no longer read and who I suggested might like to try

listening to an audio book. I was really sad to find out that there were no volunteers to do this very worthy service.

Saturday the 14th of March will see the wonderful Super Trouper choir singing at Holy Trinity Church, Stroud (next to the hospital). It starts at 7.30pm and entrance is £5 and proceeds will be split between Holy Trinity and Age UK Gloucestershire.

Last but by no means least: the dreaded Digital Switchover. I know this has caused enormous confusion especially where there is a cross-over area with people receiving the BBC Switchover Scheme literature, who are already digital. If you have a digital TV or switched over last year, then please ignore the literature; you will not be affected. If you haven't joined the scheme, and are not digital and are eligible, you need to take action quickly. You will start to lose channels from April 6th if you haven't converted to digital. Please have a think about anyone you are aware of who might not be able to do this by themselves. Either offer to help them or tell them about me and I will call on them.

Stroke Association : Caroline Seguro - 01452 520723

Ashwell Day Centre : Anne Kember - 01452 813259

Ashwell Lunch: Helen Baker, Tues & Thurs - 01452 813091

Stroud Library Customer Service : Gloria Curtis-01453 751651

Lou Kemp -Tel 07776245767